

Richmond Dispatch

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1912.

EXAMINE THE FRANCHISE.

In considering bids for the electric light and power franchise, the Council should be moved only by the desire to protect the city. The use of the streets for fifteen years is not a gift to be made hastily or blindly. Provisions must be incorporated that will absolutely guarantee some adequate return for privileges granted. The streets are not to be made subjects of speculation. The use of them should only be sold when it is certain that the people of Richmond will be protected.

The franchise as at present framed does not contain provisions that insure an adequate service of any kind. In the opinion of the city's counsel, some of its provisions will be extremely difficult to enforce. It puts the burden of proof upon the city and not upon the possible holders of the franchise. A very small service of light or power would satisfy the demands of the ordinance, without affording any real benefits to the consumers of electricity.

The Times-Dispatch urges the Council to subject this proposition to the most searching scrutiny. It is possible to refer the measure to the Street Committee for investigation and amendment, if, in its judgment, the interests of the city are not properly safeguarded. There exists no emergency that makes the immediate granting of these rights a necessity. A new Council has come into existence since the original discussion of the franchise. Its members should be informed as to the exact nature and extent of the rights it is asked to sell. The Council should examine the measure with the single aim of helping Richmond, and act accordingly.

THE OUTLOOK IN CHINA.

Dr. Morrison, the political adviser of China, who is generally conceded, knows about as much, if not more, about the country than any other Occidental, dispels in a recent interview many illusions regarding the internal situation there. According to Dr. Morrison, the condition is not one of chaos socially, politically or financially. Contrary to the representations of many, the outlook he considers exceedingly bright.

Trade, he says, has reached a "record"; the soldiers who used to prey upon the country have been dismissed; penury from the army now receives their pay and become useful and quiet citizens; no one desires the return of the Manchus, because every one recognizes the difference between gross rapacity and sincere attempt to govern decently; daily newspapers and cheaper telegrams carry enlightenment throughout the land; the Christian calendar has been officially adopted, Sunday is accepted as a day of rest, and the people are spending their evenings in large measure in reading, since they are no longer driven to the solacing use of opium.

Dr. Morrison admits that it is essential to the continued progress and general pacification and complete unification of China that she have a strong central government, financed by the powers and controlled by them through "the medium of finance." But he draws a distinction between central government through that medium and the political medium. More than that, he affirms that China does not need the amount of money the six-power syndicate was so anxious to advance her.

Dr. Morrison's exposition simply confirms the impression that so far at least as some of the proposing powers were concerned, their desire to help China out of her difficulties was prompted more by the hope of securing a mortgage on her that would finally spell partition than by anything else. However, be that as it may, we have an insight into Chinese affairs which is fuller of promise than that the republic has come to endure and that the forces of civilization are real and destined to be continuing than any that has been afforded since the revolution was precipitated.

It is noticeable that even some of the foreign papers that most deeply "regret on China's account" the failure of the six powers' loan negotiations confess that Dr. Morrison is not given to over-optimism and that his assertions and views are entitled to exceptional respect.

GRECO-AMERICANS.

The call from Greece for its young sons in America to return to fight for the fatherland, directs attention to what a valuable addition to our population the sons of Hellenes have proved. The rapidity and enterprise with which these youths have taken for themselves certain small, but important industries, and the adaptability to American conditions, must have struck even a casual observer. They have found this country a field for many admirable undertakings and have seized their opportunities with profit both to their adopted country and themselves. Almost invariably these young men

have shown themselves quick, industrious, well-mannered, law-abiding, and intelligent. They are both enterprising and agreeable. Their many good qualities at them for making excellent citizens.

They have shown a peculiar aptitude for taking advantage of small openings and creating a demand for their services. They have modernized many of our small trades. Within a few years they have changed the business of shining shoes from the haphazard methods of the casual and inefficient African boy, to a skilled trade. The quick and comfortable process of blacking shoes in a small parlor seems largely due to the initiative of the Greek. The hat-cleaning establishment, the small fruit and news stands, and the small-ware shops are tokens of their genius for making themselves essential. They have entered largely into the restaurant business, and have set a standard of cleanliness and cheapness worthy of praise.

There has been some talk of the subjection in which many of these useful citizens are held. The suggestion that anything approaching the padrone system is in vogue has been denied by the Hellenic societies and leaders, and the apparently contented and prosperous air of the youths themselves strengthens the denial.

As a whole the Greco-Americans mind their own business and minds it well. They are alert; they read and learn; they pick up the language quickly. They seldom come in conflict with the police, or their neighbors. They are eminently "desirable citizens," and bid fair to become of increasing importance in the industrial life of the country.

RICHMOND IS HOST.

Richmond welcomes with heartiest feelings the visitors to the State Fair. The doors are open and every man, woman and child this week has the keys of the city. Whatever hospitality and good will can do to make our guests have a good time will be done. The city is proud to act as host for the whole State, and have its share in helping the progress and prosperity of all of Virginia. The fair belongs to the State, just as Richmond does, and together they are going to serve the State. There will be no outsiders this week. It is home-coming time.

The exhibits have been gathered with the idea of showing Virginians the wealth and importance of their home land. They will afford impressive evidence of the vast material resources of the Old Dominion. They will prove an inspiration and a just source of pride. Their educational influence will be of profound importance.

By comparing methods and learning new ones, by exchanging ideas and experiences, by viewing the achievements in every line of agriculture and manufacture and by studying the practical demonstrations of improved implements, the visitor cannot fail to carry away some hint that will profit his own industry. In this connection it should be noted that a fair is no longer merely an agricultural exposition. It aims to improve the living conditions of all the people. The value of all State activities is a part of its lesson. The importance of women in the common life has been emphasized, and among the most interesting features of the entire exhibit will be those devoted to feminine achievements.

The carnival feature has not been forgotten. A hundred amusements have been provided. There will be no dull hours. In addition to the special features, Richmond offers all its pleasures to its guests. The homes and hearts of her people welcome the whole State.

REDUCED TO THE ABSURD.

Now comes the Amherst New Era, edited by former Judge C. J. Campbell, and solely deposes that the people should adopt the proposed constitutional amendments which would have the effect of permitting city treasurers and city commissioners of the revenue to hold office indefinitely. "The people in a recent election decided as to county treasurers and commissioners of the revenue, and by a narrow margin failed to apply it to the cities," avers the New Era. Let particular attention be directed to an argument neatly compressed into a phrase: "by a narrow margin." That is a stock argument which the officeholders have been shouting ever since the people in 1910 decided that city treasurers and city commissioners of the revenue should not have unlimited tenure of office.

"By a narrow margin," indeed. The proposed amendment which allows unlimited tenure to county treasurers and commissioners of the revenue was adopted in 1910 by a majority of 1,437. Are 1,437 votes a broad margin? If they are, then what about the 1,544 majority by which the amendment allowing the city treasurers and city commissioners of the revenue unlimited tenure was defeated? If 1,544 votes constitute a "narrow margin," what is 1,437 votes? If 1,544 votes are a "narrow margin," then isn't it logical and wouldn't it be just to reconsider the amendment affecting the county officers and vote it down?

Moreover, does the New Era take the position that wherever an election turns on a small majority the election should be declared null and void and held over again? By such reasoning the New Era would, in case Judge Watson retains his seat in the contest with Congressman Turnbull, nevertheless have the election over again because Judge Watson's majority was declared to be only eight?

Would the New Era insist that Woodrow Wilson, if he won the presidency by ten electoral votes, would have to run over again because he was elected "by a narrow margin"? A majority of the votes cast in any election by the people constitute the

WHY BEEF IS CHEAPER IN ENGLAND.

From 1900 to 1910 the population of the United States increased about 15,000,000. In the same period the total number of standard meat animals decreased 13,716,000. There were 5,914,000 fewer beef cattle, 3,100,000 fewer sheep and 1,700,000 fewer hogs. That is the explanation packers and stock raisers give for the increase in the price of meats, and it is valid.

At the same time American-raised meats sell in England for less than in the United States. In August, according to the Springfield Republican, American sirloin of beef sold in London for 13 1/2 cents, when New York had to pay 23 cents.

The reason for the discrepancy is that in the London markets our meats compete with those from South America and have to be sold at South American prices.

The New York Journal of Commerce states that consular records show that Argentina, with a population of only 2,172,000, has 29,124,000 beef cattle, 67,334,000 sheep, 1,294,281 hogs—more than thirteen and a half meat animals per capita. Uruguay, with a population of 1,400,000, has 8,200,000 beef cattle 25,000,000 sheep, 500 hogs—twenty-four per capita. The United States is said to have less than two per capita. Yet, as the Baltimore Sun puts the case, "we will not open the door to countries which have plenty of cattle and can supply cheaper beef, pork and mutton."

England imports almost all of her meats; ours we raise. Prices, however, are lower in England than in America. England places no tariff on meats. We do, and the packing and distribution are to a great degree controlled by a trust powerful enough to fix prices.

General Grant's picture will be on the new \$10,000 bills, but those who wish his likeness can get it cheaper.

Is the playing of football by medical college students a part of the course in practice of surgery?

Here's true college spirit for you: Vannevar Bush, a student at Tufts, as presiding officer, had the right to cast the deciding vote and did so, thereby generously electing his rival with whom he was tied in the race for class president.

will of the people, but the New Era seems to think that a majority is not a majority when it is by a "narrow margin." When the people "by a narrow margin" defeated the pending amendment in 1910 they registered the will of the people, but since they did not register the will of the officeholders, of course, they really did not speak at all, and they didn't know what they were voting on and they didn't "see the light," and anyway, what's the Constitution between officeholders? If the people agree with the officeholders, they are sovereigns; if they don't agree, they are mistaken, and they'll have to keep on voting till they do. Why not frame up a new Constitution, and instead of heading it, "We, the people," make it, "We, the officeholders?"

TREATING CONVICTS AS MEN.

Oregon's experience in handling her convicts contains profitable lessons for other States. Formerly revolt was common within the walls of the State prison-house. The inmates were discontented and rebellious. The Oregon penitentiary created an annual deficit of \$40,000.

Eight months ago Governor Oswald West, a former carpenter, installed an honor system among the convicts in his State, and it has worked with remarkable success.

Under the Oregon plan, convicts are supplied with some incentive to do good work. Unguarded, they are sent away to other State institutions to work. They are employed on the roads. A gang was lately sent from a distance of 200 miles without a guard. When they reached their destination, they pitched their tents and went to work, and are still at work. Each man, before his departure, gave his word of honor that he would not attempt to escape, and that he would prevent others from escaping. So they are their own keepers and the keepers of their fellows.

The men employed on the road are paid by the municipalities and counties requiring their services. The convicts employed at the insane asylums, tuberculosis sanatoriums and industrial schools earn \$1 per day, of which each worker gets 25 cents. The men placed on the honor roll are the men of good deportment who have earned good treatment.

Under the honor system of handling convicts, the deficit which has always burdened the taxpayers heavily has been converted into a substantial surplus. Last year the honor system made \$2,000 above all expenses, and, in addition, supplied \$14,000 worth of bricks to various other State institutions.

So well has the plan worked out that Governor West has placed much confidence in a number of individuals. One of these was serving a life sentence for murder. His aged father-in-law and mother-in-law mortgaged their home to get him a lawyer. The Governor heard that the mortgage was about to fall due, and that the aged and infirm couple would probably lose their home. He called in the convict and told him that he might have his liberty long enough to lift the mortgage. At the end of six months the convict returned to the penitentiary, having paid off the mortgage, and having vindicated the confidence placed in him.

Nothing is ever lost by the humane and rational treatment of the imprisoned.

There were no reckless auto bugs.

In the good old days of Adam; No turkey trots or bunny huns. In the good old days of Adam. There were no agents selling books. There were no hold-up men or crooks. No stars got by upon their looks. In the good old days of Adam.

There were no squeaking phonographs.

In the good old days of Adam; No homemade tombstone epitaphs. In the good old days of Adam. There were no cats camped on the fence. No grocery bills that were immense; They worried not about expense. In the good old days of Adam.

There were no politician sharks.

In the good old days of Adam; To prey upon the easy marks. In the good old days of Adam. No Congress pulled off wondrous deeds. In caring for the country's needs; Folks dug up their own garden seeds. In the good old days of Adam.

They didn't have a weather man.

In the good old days of Adam; To run things on a strenuous plan. In the good old days of Adam. There were no prowling trusts to fight. No burglars to break in at night; Life must have been worth living quite. In the good old days of Adam.

And a few of the other things that Adam didn't have to put up with are:

- Relative chronic story-tellers.
- Pickily underwears.
- Planolias.
- Garlic salad.
- Amateur tetrazzinas.
- Storage eggs.
- Life insurance agents.
- Birthday suspenders.
- Peg-top trousers.
- Outing flannel nighties.

Each morn he sent her violets.

Each eve he sent her roses; That's what the fair young charmer gets. Before her man proposes. But after they are married and The honeymoon turns sour, The only thing he sends home is The luscious cauliflower.

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

According to Uncle Abner, Willis Tamm has learned how to chew tobacco, and when he grows up he will probably either be a baseball pitcher or a member of the Supreme Court.

There ain't nothing that a feller wants worse than a safety pin when he wants it.

It is pretty near time for the old-fashioned tad with the chin whisker to begin predicting a hard winter.

There are going to be a lot of people disappointed in the outcome of the election, and it wouldn't be an election if there wasn't.

One of the things that are hard to understand is that the tight skirts, with only a yard of material in 'em, cost more than the old-fashioned ones with about ten yards.

Amey Higgins, who is tired of life, is inventing a new-fangled aeroplane.

Two married couples passed through Sunday on their way East. The reason we know they were married is because the men were in one rig and the women in the other.

The usual number of freak bets are being recorded. Mr. Eli Higgins, the astute and enthusiastic Bull Moose, will stand on his head on the tip of the church steeple for two hours and a half if Taft is elected, and in case Roosevelt is elected Mr. Samuel Pickens will do the same thing. Lem Jordan, who is a Democrat, says it is a pretty safe bet either way.

We Couldn't Live Without These.

- Caruso tomatoes.
- Hot mince pie.
- New York police scandals.
- Campaign promises.
- Yellow automobiles.
- Furniture polish canvassers.

An Editor's Soliloquy.

There are moments when the life of a country editor hardly seems worth living, fleeting moments, perhaps, but intense moments nevertheless. The editor of the Sunland Sentinel expected one of these moments recently, according to the following, which is taken from his valuable paper:

"When a girl with a face like a cream puff marries a youth who never earned a dime outside a shooting gallery, the editor has to paint the bride as a radiant vision of blushing beauty and the groom as a 'rising young business man' or else disappoint an expectant circle of delinquent subscribers. If the editor fails to spread a two-column obituary over a prominent citizen, who never paid a grocery bill outside of the justice court, he is liable to be waited upon by some two-faced relative of the deceased with an infuriated air and a punch in either hand."

The Good Old Days.

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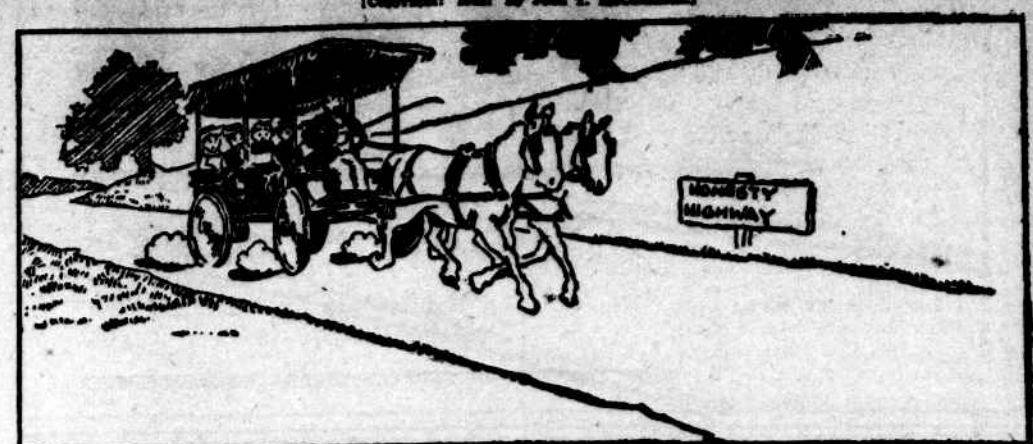
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THERE IS ONLY ONE SAFE ROAD.

By John T. McCutcheon.



QUERIES & ANSWERS

Address. Can you give me the address of Sir Henry Hargrave Deane, John Bigelow and Miss Dorothy Bigelow and Governor Marshall, of Indiana? MRS. Q. City address is 2 King's Bench Walk, Temple, London, E. C. England. Country address is Heathfield, Bushey Heath, County Herts, England. The family residence is 21 Gramercy Park, New York City, where a letter will doubtless reach Miss Dorothy Bigelow. Governor Marshall's address is Indianapolis, Ind.

State Flowers. Please publish the list of flowers now adopted by some of the States, that persons interested in selecting a flower for Virginia may see what is left to choose from.

Without discrimination whether these flowers were adopted by a legislature or by public school children or by general acceptance, the list is:

Alabama—Goldenrod.
 Alaska—Forget-me-not.
 Arkansas—Apple blossom.
 California—Golden poppy.
 Colorado—Columbine.
 Connecticut—Mountain laurel.
 Delaware—Peach blossom.
 Florida—Orange blossom.
 Idaho—Sagebrush.
 Illinois—Violet.
 Iowa—Goldenrod.
 Kansas—Sunflower.
 Kentucky—Goldenrod.
 Louisiana—Magnolia.
 Maine—Pine cone and tassel.
 Maryland—Black-eyed Susan.
 Michigan—Apple blossom.
 Minnesota—Mugwort.
 Mississippi—Magnolia.
 Missouri—Goldenrod.
 Montana—Bitter root.
 Nebraska—Goldenrod.
 Nevada—Cactus.
 New Mexico—Cactus.
 New York—Goldenrod.
 North Dakota—Wild rose.
 Ohio—Scarlet carnation.
 Oklahoma—Mistletoe.
 Oregon—Oregon grape.
 Rhode Island—Violet.
 South Dakota—Amaranth.
 Tennessee—Dogwood.
 Vermont—Red clover.
 Washington—Black-huckleberry.
 West Virginia—Rhinoceros horn.
 Wisconsin—Mandrill.
 Wyoming—Cactus.

Wisconsin Telegraphy. Where may I find out about the chances of securing a position in wireless telegraphy work? G. J. H. Write International Wireless Company, or Marconi Wireless Company. New York City is sufficient address for either.

Virginia River. Please state the length of the James, the Potomac and the Rappahannock Rivers. R. E. BROWN. A guide gives 351, 400 and 130 miles as the lengths in that order of your case. This is nearly right, though the same book declares that the distance from Norfolk to Richmond is 160 miles and to Lynchburg 155.

Temperance Movement. Please inform me where I may find what States or parts of States are "dry," and how long they have been so. R. A. T. Write to the Virginia Anti-Saloon League, Richmond, Va.

Blackboard. Can you tell me what became of the pirate, Blackboard? T. U. BROWN. He was killed in 1800 and the name is an engagement with Captain Henry Morgan's ship, November 21, 1718. His head was brought to Hampton and exposed at the market place. Blackboard was a famous pirate who was executed at Williamsburg.

Noble Work. To the Editor of the Times-Dispatch: Sir—In your issue of October 3, you pay a well merited compliment to the managers of the Home for Needy Confederate Women, under the heading, "Our Confederate Samaritans." If, however, the lady to whom you refer as having been taken to the soldiers' Home and left there without funds, is the one from Pittsylvania County, who a few months back had the same experience and has now in the Home for Needy Confederate Women, we wish to say that it is the pride of the members of the Rawley Martin Chapter, Chatham, Va., that the chapter with the assistance of the relief fund, Virginia Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Chatham Baptist Church and two nephews of the lady, are paying the sum required for her maintenance in the Home.

MRS. W. C. N. MERCHANT, Chatham.

A Cavalier's Career. To the Editor of the Times-Dispatch: Sir—I saw some time ago in the Times-Dispatch where one Mr. Gordon, of your city, wanted the words to the old song, "I lay five dollars down and count them one by one," which was the chorus. I do not recall the words, but I send other words which he or any one else can sing to the same tune, when he lays his ten dollars down to aid the Wilson campaign fund. The words can be sung to the tune, "Who Struck Billy Patterson." If he don't know the tune, if he will run over to our town I will hum it for him. I can't do much singing, as I injured my voice calling hogs before daybreak, during slavery time, before the war.

F. E. ROBERTS, Chase City.

Wilson Campaign Song. Election day is coming round, Go out to the polls, Go down in your bestest men, And leave out your souls.

Chorus: I'll lay ten dollars down, And count them one by one, That when the vote is canvassed, Woodrow Wilson's won.

Some vote for money: Some vote for name, Half-hearted Democrats Aren't worth a blame.

Chorus: The old "Bull Moose" Roosevelt, The "Big Elephant" Taft, Can't beat Woodrow Wilson, With all their mighty graft.

Chorus: Taft rides an elephant, Roosevelt rides a mule, They'll not be in the race, New Wilson's steeds turned loose.

Chorus: Ecstasies Roosevelt, Roosevelt Taft, Against all-round Wilson, How it makes me laugh.

Chorus: We'll give four years' commission To presidential job, Taft and Roosevelt to defeat The "special interest" rot.

Chorus: We'll send the "Moose" to Oyster Bay, Turn him out to grass, Then he'll get over The presidential cross.

Chorus: We'll go down to Washington, Put Taft on the train, Send him to his quiet home, There to remain.

Chorus: Then when March fourth comes round, Won't it be fine, To run over to Washington And see that President mine.

Chorus: To the Editor of the Times-Dispatch: Sir—While all thoughtful people in Virginia and elsewhere deprecate and abhor the crime for which the Allen, father and son, are to pay the penalty in November, it is not necessarily so to include a young man, in his eyes, in the same category with a

